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RANGERS, INC.

19

20 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
21 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION**

23 CORY SPENCER, an individual;  
24 DIANA MILENA REED, an  
individual; and COASTAL  
25 PROTECTION RANGERS, INC., a  
California non-profit public benefit  
26 corporation,

27 Plaintiffs,  
28

CASE NO. 2:16-cv-02129-SJO (RAOx)  
**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO  
DEFENDANTS CITY OF PALOS  
VERDES ESTATES AND CHIEF OF  
POLICE JEFF KEPLEY'S MOTION  
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR, IN  
THE ALTERNATIVE, SUMMARY  
ADJUDICATION**

Case No. 2:16-cv-02129-SJO (RAOx)

PLTFS.' OPPOSITION TO DEFTS. CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES AND CHIEF OF POLICE JEFF KEPLEY'S MOT. FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, SUMMARY ADJUDICATION

1  
2 v.  
3

4 LUNADA BAY BOYS; THE  
5 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE  
6 LUNADA BAY BOYS, including but  
not limited to SANG LEE, BRANT  
BLAKEMAN, ALAN JOHNSTON  
AKA JALIAN JOHNSTON,  
MICHAEL RAE PAPAYANS,  
ANGELO FERRARA, FRANK  
FERRARA, CHARLIE FERRARA,  
and N. F.; CITY OF PALOS VERDES  
ESTATES; CHIEF OF POLICE JEFF  
KEPLEY, in his representative  
capacity; and DOES 1-10,

12 Defendants.  
13

Judge: Hon. S. James Otero  
Date: September 5, 2017  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Crtrm.: 10C  
Complaint Filed: March 29, 2016  
Trial Date: November 7, 2017

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Outsiders, including people of color and the poor, are systematically excluded by the City of Palos Verdes Estates police and by the self-styled "Lunada Bay Boys," with whom members of the police department maintain close friendship. This is so even though the State of California granted Lunada Bay and the rest of the Palos Verdes Estates Shoreline Preserve to the City, while reserving it for the people of California. (Plaintiffs' Additional Material Facts ("PAMF") 108.)

The evidence in this case goes far beyond simply denying surfers access to a public beach; rather, Defendants' collective actions affect all members of the public who may wish to visit.<sup>1</sup> While Lunada Bay should be a popular destination to recreate, it is not because of the long-standing treatment of outsiders under the name of "localism." As succinctly put by the City's former Chief of Police Timm Browne:

13 People here do not like outsiders in general. Umm, I mean, they pay a  
14 price to live here. Umm, they have beautiful views of the ocean from  
15 most of the homes in the City. Umm, so, uh, they are protective of  
their community as a whole, umm, I mean surfers or non-surfers"

16 (PAMF 163.) As police dispatcher Catherine Placek stated in regard to the  
17 Bay Boys specifically:

We know all of them. They are infamous around here. They are pretty much grown men in little mens' mindset. They don't like anyone that's not one of the Bay Boys surfing down there. It literally is like a game with kids on a schoolyard to them. And they don't want you playing on their swing set. But, you know, it is what it is. If you feel

23       <sup>1</sup> Defendant Jeff Kepley is Palos Verdes Estates' current Chief of Police, having  
24       been appointed by the City on June 1, 2014. Chief Kepley is named in his  
25       representative capacity. (Compl., ¶ 9.) Private parties can sue officials in their  
26       official capacity to enforce federal laws and regulations for prospective injunctive  
27       and declaratory relief. *Ex Parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123(1908) (official may be sued in  
28       official capacity for injunctive relief). Here, while Chief Kepley reports to the City  
Manager, it is the position of Chief of Police that is named because the Chief  
oversees sworn personnel. (PAMF 164.)

1           uncomfortable, you know, then don't do it.

2 (PAMF 166.) And as the Deputy City Manager said in her deposition:

3           I don't remember exactly who said something like that ["we don't want  
4           to be too welcoming in Lunada Bay"] but I know a number of residents  
5           did not like the idea of having the boulders [for seating] there. ... I think  
5           it's basically the consideration of loitering.

6 (PAMF 165.)

7           Plaintiffs Cory Spencer and Diana Milena Reed are "outsiders" who stand up  
8 to bullying. They don't want to "loiter," but do want to visit Lunada Bay without  
9 fear of being harassed and the need to make a reservation with the police in advance.  
10 They expect the City to enforce the laws equally – resident or non-resident. They  
11 bravely step forward to bring their claims and to stop the illegal bullying actions of  
12 the Bay Boys, and police who have condoned it. In addition to their direct standing  
13 to seek injunctive relief, they are the voice of all outsiders who have or would like to  
14 visit Lunada Bay but for the bullying actions of "locals" and the City's illegal  
15 exclusionary activity. In addition to Spencer and Reed, Plaintiff Coastal Protection  
16 Rangers ("CPR"), is a California nonprofit dedicated to coastal access laws and  
17 diversity. (PAMF 109, 102-115.) It, too, has legal standing to represent members  
18 of the public who are denied equal access to this pristine and undeveloped coastline.  
19 Like Plaintiffs Spencer and Reed, the people CPR protects do not want to "loiter"  
20 but simply enjoy what amounts to a beautiful park in the heart of Los Angeles  
21 County. CPR protects people of color, the poor and other protected categories – the  
22 very "outsiders" and "undesirables" that the City and the defendant Bay Boys have  
23 for decades sought to exclude. (PAMF 116.) The City's direct discrimination and  
24 localism deter and adversely affect the individual plaintiffs and the protected  
25 categories of beachgoers whom CPR represents. (PAMF 114-116, 118.)

26           The City's historic and present-day exclusionary practices include the  
27 following: pulling over, ticketing, and towing the vehicles of outsiders, and in  
28 particular Hispanics and African Americans (PAMF 136-143, 154);

1 disproportionately detaining outsiders in its own 24-7 jail (PAMF 144-145);  
2 refusing to diversify its police force (PAMF 150-151); condoning the use of "officer  
3 discretion" in response to the exclusionary practices of the Lunada Bay Boys who  
4 harass, bully, and cause bodily injury and property damage to outsiders (PAMF 163-  
5 164, 166, 171, 172); ignoring its own ordinances meant to combat localism (PAMF  
6 175); and declining to take any other steps to address outsiders' complaints and  
7 make them feel welcome at a public beach (PAMF 175-187). Consequently, the  
8 California Coastal Commission has expressed concern about the City's impediments  
9 to people from inland communities using the coast, providing coastal experiences to  
10 lower-income as well as other underserved populations, and mitigating  
11 discriminatory impacts to other protected-category beachgoers. (PAMF 168.)

12 Here, the City fails to address what is important - because of its custom and  
13 practice of exclusion, this matter requires three levels of Section 1983 Equal  
14 Protection analysis: (1) strict scrutiny; (2) intermediate scrutiny; and (3) rational  
15 basis review. 42 U.S.C. § 1983. And, the City ignores material facts.

## 16 II. STANDARD

17 In opposing summary judgment, the burden on the nonmoving party is not a  
18 heavy one; the nonmoving party is simply required to show specific facts, as  
19 opposed to general allegations, that present a genuine issue worthy of trial. *Lujan v.*  
20 *Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555 (1992). Plaintiffs' burden in opposing this  
21 motion for summary judgment is met by coming forward with appropriate evidence  
22 showing a pending dispute of a material fact. *Tucson Elec. Power Co. v. Pauwels*  
23 *Canada Inc.*, 651 F. App'x 681, 682 (9th Cir. 2016).

24 And in deciding a summary judgment motion, the court must view the  
25 evidence in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party and draw all justifiable  
26 inferences in the nonmoving party's favor. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477  
27 U.S. 242, 255 (1986). Moreover, circumstantial evidence alone may create a  
28 genuine issue of material fact, sufficient to defeat a motion for summary judgment

1 as it may be more certain and persuasive than direct evidence. *Cornwell v. Electra*  
2 *Central Credit Union*, 439 F.3d 1018, 1029-1030 (9th Cir. 2006). The line between  
3 "isolated or sporadic incidents" and "persistent and widespread conduct" is not  
4 clearly delineated; there is no "bright line test" although it appears to require more  
5 than one or two. The actual quantum of evidence therefore requires a fully-  
6 developed factual record at trial. *Sanchez v. City of Fresno*, 914 F. Supp. 2d 1079,  
7 1096 (E.D. Cal. 2012). Moreover, an unconstitutional policy or custom, pattern or  
8 practice by a municipality can be established by inference where there is evidence of  
9 continuous actions by police. *Menotti v. City of Seattle*, 409 F.3d 1113, 1147 (9th  
10 Cir. 2005).

11 Here, there is an abundance of evidence demonstrating the City's longstanding  
12 custom and practice of illegal exclusivity. This evidence includes declarations by  
13 witnesses Andrew Willis, Peter Neushul, and Philip King, who each confirm that  
14 Lunada Bay would have multiples more people using it but for localism. (PAMF  
15 167, 168.) The City provides no evidence to rebut this. (PAMF 169.)

### 16 III. STATEMENT OF FACTS<sup>2</sup>

#### 17 A. The City's Practice And Custom Of Exclusion

##### 18 1. The City Has A Longstanding Custom And Practice Of Unlawful 19 Exclusion Of Outsiders, And Discourages Them From Coming To The City.

20 The City's history of exclusion harkens back to the year when it was founded.  
21 When Palos Verdes Estates was founded in 1923, and later incorporated as a city in  
22 1939, Palos Verdes Homes Association deed restrictions barred people of color from  
23 the City. (PAMF 131.) The Palos Verdes Home Association did not repeal the

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24  
25 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs are unable to fully and completely oppose the instant motion due to  
Defendants' continued withholding of evidence. See PAMF 137, 146-147, 188-191;  
26 Decl. Lisa Pooley. Plaintiffs request that this Court deny the City's motion, or in the  
27 alternative, delay consideration to enable the production and/or review of  
improperly withheld or belatedly produced evidence. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d).  
28

1 illegal deed restriction until 2000, and even after doing so, it is still handing out  
2 copies of its restrictions with the illegal provisions merely whited out. (*Id.*) The  
3 Palos Verdes Homes Association is located at City Hall and still works closely with  
4 the City. (PAMF 133-134.) The City took no action requiring the Palos Verdes  
5 Home Association to repeal the illegal deed restriction, nor did it pass a resolution  
6 or take other action condemning the illegal restriction. (PAMF 132.) Housed at the  
7 Civic Center facility with City Hall and the police, the Palos Verdes Homes  
8 Association still enforces deed restrictions in the City, and all homeowners in the  
9 City must abide under its jurisdiction. (PAMF 133-134.)

10 For decades and continuing through today, the City has taken affirmative  
11 actions to continue to exclude minorities and other outsiders. For example, to deter  
12 outsiders away from its streets and beaches, the City has targeted them with  
13 unfavorable treatment for traffic citations, parking tickets, and towed vehicles, while  
14 looking the other way when local residents break the law. (PAMF 136-140, 142-  
15 143.) Further, City police officers have openly expressed their dislike of Hispanic  
16 and African American people in the City, profiled these minorities, and pulled them  
17 over in disproportionate numbers. (PAMF 136.) When asked by Plaintiffs, the City  
18 refused to provide the number of traffic citations issued to outsiders versus residents  
19 and traffic citations issued to minorities versus white persons, even though it  
20 admitted it has this data. (PAMF 137.)

21 In fact, the City and its local towing provider have a perverse financial  
22 incentive to target outsiders. For at least 10 years, outsiders who dare to come to  
23 Palos Verdes Estates have risked having their vehicles impounded by a towing  
24 company owned by a City police officer, Robert Vanlingen. (PAMF 139.) After  
25 towing an outsider's vehicle, the police would leave them stranded without a way to  
26 get home. (PAMF 140.) Similarly, on one occasion, when an outsider was stranded  
27 because he had run out of gas, an officer responded by saying "You should have  
28 thought about that before you left your town." (PAMF 141.) Vanlingen towing

1 company and the City literally profit from towing outsiders' vehicles. (PAMF 142.)

2 As a deterrent for outsiders who want to visit City streets and beaches, the  
3 City of just 13,500 residents has its own 24-hour seven-day-per-week city jail.  
4 (PAMF 144.) High for a city of its size, the City averages between 350 and 400  
5 bookings into its city jail each year. (PAMF 145.)<sup>3</sup> The City refused to estimate  
6 what percentage of jail bookings are residents of the City versus outsiders, even  
7 though it maintains this data. (PAMF 146.) Similarly, the City refused to estimate  
8 how many bookings in the City jail involve persons of color versus Caucasians.  
9 (PAMF 147.)

10 Further, the City has made it clear that it does not want African American  
11 police officers working for it. (PAMF 149-151.) Since its incorporation in 1939,  
12 the City has had just two African American police officers. (PAMF 150.) Both  
13 were terminated. (*Id.*) One, Captain Kevin Scroggins, was terminated when he  
14 complained the Chief called him "boy" and that, at a retirement party, City police  
15 showed a slide of a white officer with a noose around his neck and made up with  
16 blackface. (PAMF 151.)<sup>4</sup> In its treatment of outsiders, and in particular, minorities,  
17 and its refusal to diversify its police force, the City has practiced exclusion of  
18 outsiders over many decades.

19 The deterrent effect works. Veteran City police officers report that they  
20 rarely see African Americans or Latinos at Lunada Bay – perhaps twice in over 20  
21 years. (PAMF 158.)

22

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<sup>3</sup> By contrast, the 2015 Bureau of Justice statistics' incarceration rates for cities and counties is 230 inmates per 100,000 residents. (PAMF 148.)

<sup>4</sup> In its excuse, the City argues the phrase was "buddy boy" and that the "blackface" slide of a white officer with a noose around his neck was a film negative so he looked black. (PAMF 151.)

1           **2. The City Has Been Aware Of And Condoned The Exclusionary**  
2           **Practices Of The Lunada Bay Boys For Decades.**

3           Not only has the City engaged in its own exclusionary actions, but the City  
4 has condoned the exclusionary practices of the Lunada Bay Boys for decades.  
5 (PAMF 163-166, 171, 172.) Hiding behind a "surf problem," the City allows the  
6 Bay Boys to do its dirty work. Defendant Chief Kepley admits that "there have  
7 been conflicts and issues in the surfing culture" at Lunada Bay for "many, many  
8 years, as many as 50 years or more" and that localism continues to be a problem.  
9 (PAMF 171.) As Bay Boy Peter McCollum explained to the Los Angeles Times in  
10 1995, "We protected this beach for years. This is why. So we can have driftwood  
11 on the beach rather than Kentucky Fried Chicken boxes. If the beach opened up it  
12 would be packed with low riders ... the rocks would be marked with graffiti."  
13 (PAMF 152.) Veteran City police officers had knowledge of McCollum's  
14 "protective" actions toward outsiders and persons they viewed as undesirables  
15 coming to Lunada Bay. (PAMF 153.)

16           While the City is strict in enforcing its laws against outsiders, in contrast, it is  
17 lenient when locals break the law. (PAMF 186.) For decades, the City allowed the  
18 Bay Boys to build and maintain an illegal structure ("Rock Fort") on City property,  
19 which was used as the Bay Boys headquarters.<sup>5</sup> (PAMF 164, 165.) For about five  
20 years, the City permitted Bay Boy local and Defendant Brant Blakeman to use a  
21 City-owned phone to coordinate efforts to exclude outsiders, including the  
22 harassment of Plaintiffs Reed and Spencer. (PAMF 183.) And when Bay Boy  
23 Michael Thiel directed the City to cancel its undercover investigation, the City  
24 agreed. (PAMF 185; *see also* PAMF 186 (Defendant Alan Johnston texted a Bay  
25 Boy the same day: "Could be a great help if ur there!!! Supposed to be a police

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26  
27           <sup>5</sup> Last November, facing pressure from this lawsuit, the City finally removed the  
28 long-in-place Rock Fort.

1 setup at our spot calling all gards [sic].") .)

2       City police officers also know and socialize with Lunada Bay locals who  
3 exclude outsiders from the City. (PAMF 194.) Police Officer Association President  
4 Sergeant Steve Barber is friends with several Bay Boys, goes to barbecues and  
5 parties with them, and communicates with them on his personal phone. (PAMF  
6 188.) This includes Charles Mowat, who had informed Barber that he complained  
7 directly to the City's elected officials about Defendant Chief Kepley's plan to  
8 enforce surfing-related rules in Lunada Bay. (PAMF 188.) Although Barber  
9 "investigates" his friends when they're accused of wrongdoing, the City did not  
10 search Sergeant Barber's phone in response to Plaintiffs' discovery requests and  
11 Sergeant Barber refused to provide his phone number or provide documents relevant  
12 to this case off his personal phone. (PAMF 188-191.) When asked if the City  
13 requested Sergeant Barber to preserve data on his personal phone, he answered "no"  
14 and refused to provide further information based on an instruction from his lawyer.  
15 (*Id.*) When asked if he deleted information off his personal phone since the filing of  
16 this lawsuit, again, he was instructed not to answer. (*Id.*)

17       With the City's longstanding support of their behavior, the Bay Boys bully,  
18 harass, and lash out at outsiders. For example, during the first Lunada Bay Martin  
19 Luther King, Jr. Day event on January 20, 2014, with City police present, a native  
20 Hawaiian (and later Coastal Protection Ranger volunteer) Christopher Taloa was  
21 told by a local wearing blackface and an afro wig: "You don't pay enough taxes to  
22 be here." (PAMF 155.) When Taloa attempted to surf Lunada Bay, he was asked:  
23 "Who are the black guys on the cliff?" (PAMF 156.) And then he was told by a  
24 local surfers that they owned the local police and judges. (*Id.*) Taloa was  
25 threatened thusly: "I'm going to have you arrested and have you f\*#@#&% in the ass  
26 by a black or Mexican in the holding cell." (*Id.*) Further, in an effort to deter  
27 outsiders, local surfers hurl pejoratives at them like "kook," "gook," or "fucking  
28 faggots." (PAMF 157.) During a second Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration,

1 which Plaintiff CPR sponsored on January 16, 2017, associates of the Bay Boys  
2 endangered event participants. (PAMF 161.) And when event participants  
3 complained to the police, the police made it difficult on the CPR event participants  
4 and acted uninterested. (*Id.*)

5       While the City has long known about the Bay Boys' concerted efforts to  
6 exclude outsiders, it does not take complaints seriously. (PAMF 171, 174, 182.)  
7 When outsiders complain to the City about locals breaking the law, the police  
8 belittle the outsiders and respond with: "I'm not a surfer." (PAMF 179, 187.) The  
9 outsiders are discouraged from making complaints, and the complaints they do file  
10 are not followed up on but merely logged as "incidents." (PAMF 187.) Because of  
11 this, the City comes nowhere near capturing the complaints of all victims who have  
12 been harassed. (PAMF 173.)

13       **3. Alleged City Efforts To Combat Illegal Exclusivity Are Woefully  
14 Inadequate And Ineffective.**

15       The City claims to be combatting the localism problem, but action speaks  
16 louder than words. For about a decade, the City has had two ordinances related to  
17 localism. (PAMF 174.) The first makes it illegal to block access to the beach, and  
18 the second makes it illegal to dangerously operate a surfboard (surf-riding or  
19 "dropping in" ordinance). (PAMF 175.) But the blocking access to the beach  
20 ordinance has never been used and the surf-riding ordinance was allegedly first used  
21 a few months ago – and only after a CPR volunteer insisted on follow up. (*Id.*)

22       While it has a known problem with illegal localism, the City has failed to  
23 train its personnel on coastal access laws, including its own municipal ordinances.  
24 (PAMF 176.) The City and its leaders call the illegal exclusivity a "myth" or "urban  
25 legend." (PAMF 177.) When the Coastal Commission asked the City to address its  
26 concerns, its request was not followed. (PAMF 178.) Moreover, the City has  
27 provided no training to officers on surfing etiquette or coastal access laws and little  
28 training on diversity issues. (PAMF 179.) It refuses to post signs indicating Lunada

1 Bay is a public beach and provides no maps or markers indicating trail locations.  
2 (PAMF 125.) The City's police officers generally do not go down to the beach to  
3 enforce its laws. (PAMF 180.) The City's five claimed efforts to end localism are  
4 stale, ineffective, or otherwise overstated: (1) it had boat patrols, (2) had undercover  
5 operations, (3) printed localism fliers, (4) placed an LED message board on the  
6 bluff, and (5) started community outreach to learn about the problem. (PAMF 181,  
7 182.) But according to the City's own representatives, (1) the City's boats have not  
8 worked in about four years and were used to patrol surfers only rarely before, (2) the  
9 City has had just two undercover operations in about 17 years, one of which targeted  
10 the outsiders, not the locals, and a third that was cancelled at the request of a Bay  
11 Boy, (3) it printed somewhere between hundreds to 1,000 localism fliers, but does  
12 not know how many were distributed, let alone distributed to outsiders, (4) the LED  
13 message board was ineffective and only used about 10 times over 18 months, and  
14 (5) the community outreach program was not directed to help people being denied  
15 access, but was used to collect information from locals. (PAMF 182.)

16       The City's own Planning Commission declines Coastal Commission  
17 recommendations, indicating the City does not want to be "too welcoming" to  
18 outsiders. (PAMF 165.) Like the Bay Boys, the City does not want outsiders using  
19 Lunada Bay and counsels outsiders that if they are uncomfortable facing the locals,  
20 then they should go somewhere else. (PAMF 166.) As the City's police dispatcher  
21 stated, "We know all of them. They are infamous around here. They are pretty  
22 much grown men in little men's mindset. They don't like anyone that's not one of  
23 the Bay Boys surfing down there. ... But, you know, it is what it is. If you feel  
24 uncomfortable, you know, then don't do it." (*Id.*)

25       **4. The City's Actions And Failures Have Resulted In The Harassment  
26           Of Outsiders And The Deterrence To Outsiders From Visiting The  
27           City.**

28       The exclusionary practices of the City and the individual Defendants are  
effective. Because of its and the Bay Boys' reputation, outsiders avoid Lunada Bay.

1 (PAMF 167, 168.) The City admits that the Bay Boys have a gang mentality and  
2 attempt to dissuade outsiders from coming to City. (PAMF 172.) And the City  
3 admits the Bay Boys are territorial, discourage outsiders from using the beach, and  
4 intimidate outsiders. (*Id.*) Given the City's complicity, the Bay Boys' plan works.  
5 While it's a prized wave, Lunada Bay is known to only have a few surfers using it.  
6 (PAMF 167, 168.) The City's best estimate is only between 5 to 15 surfers use  
7 Lunada Bay when the surf is good. (PAMF 170.) The Coastal Commission has also  
8 been made aware of the exclusionary practices of the City and that beachgoers are  
9 being denied access to Lunada Bay in violation of the law, and, thus, are continuing  
10 to suffer irreparable harm. (PAMF 168.) Lunada Bay is known as one of the most  
11 localized surf spots in the world. (PAMF 167.)

12 The City's exclusion captures people of color, too. The City admits that few  
13 persons of color and few others in protected categories use Lunada Bay. (PAMF  
14 158, 159.) Its representatives stated they are only aware of two occasions of African  
15 Americans at Lunada Bay over 21.5 years, that Latinos do not go to Lunada Bay,  
16 and that fewer women visit Lunada Bay than men. (*Id.*)

17 **B. Plaintiffs Have Suffered Discrimination And A Loss Of Their Equal  
18 Protection Rights Upon Their Attempts To Visit The City.**

19 **1. Plaintiff CPR Represents All People Who Want Coastal Access,  
Including Minorities And Women.**

20 Plaintiff CPR is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation whose  
21 mission is dedicated to ensuring public access to the California coast. (PAMF 109,  
22 110, 113.) CPR has diverted resources to achieve open access for all at Lunada Bay,  
23 and if it were not for the illegal exclusivity by the City, these resources could be  
24 used for other important CPR projects related to coastal access. (PAMF 117.) CPR  
25 board members and/or volunteers, as well as the individuals they advocate for, have  
26 suffered from unlawful exclusion at Lunada Bay. (PAMF 114-116.) CPR's  
27 members, volunteers, and the people it helps include people of color, people with  
28 disabilities, women, and people of different sexual orientations who are concerned

1 about illegal exclusion from the coast. (PAMF 115.) CPR has investigated illegal  
2 exclusion by the City of Palos Verdes Estates, and, on behalf of its members and  
3 volunteers, wants to remedy unequal treatment against persons of color, women, the  
4 poor, and other protected categories – and, on behalf of its members and volunteers,  
5 specifically desires to address civil rights issues as they relate to beach access.  
6 (PAMF 114-116.)

7       **2. In Response To Plaintiff Reed's Complaints Of Sexual Harassment  
8 By The Bay Boys, City Police Discouraged Her From Returning To  
Lunada Bay.**

9           Plaintiff Diana Milena Reed is a female outsider who has been harassed at  
10 Lunada Bay with City complicity, and is deterred from visiting Lunada Bay.  
11 (PAMF 119-124.) As the City describes in its Motion, Reed visited Lunada Bay on  
12 January 29, 2016 with her friend. (Motion, p. 4.) Lunada Bay Boys in automobiles  
13 drove around their vehicle and yelled "kooks," "you can't surf here," and profanities  
14 at them. (*Id.*) Other Bay Boys videotaped them in an efforts to keep them away.  
15 (*Id.*) After descending to the beach, another Bay Boy called her a "whore" and then  
16 returned to yell profanities at them. (*Id.*) The next time Reed was harassed was on  
17 February 13, 2016. (PAMF 121, 122.) The day before, a Bay Boy made a personal  
18 visit to the City Manager and directed him to call off a planned undercover  
19 operation. (PAMF 185.) The City acquiesced. (*Id.*)

20           On February 13, 2016, while Reed and her boyfriend were descending the  
21 trail to the beach, Bay Boys yelled profanities, filmed them, attempted to block their  
22 path, and told them they were "done." (Motion, p. 5.) When Reed reached the  
23 beach, she was approached by Defendants Brant Blakeman and Alan Johnston who  
24 "rushed" her in a hostile manner. (*Id.*) Defendant Johnston opened a can of beer in  
25 a way that sprayed on Reed's arm and camera. (*Id.*) He also acted in a sexual  
26 manner toward her and another woman by "grunting and making – making moans  
27 and noises resembling an orgasm. He was thrusting and rubbing his torso in a  
28 sexual manner." (*Id.*) Reed asked why she was being filmed and the alleged

1 response was because she was "fucking sexy baby ... want to film it?" Defendant  
2 Johnston told her, "I seen you and I think I touched myself a little bit." (*Id.*) And  
3 Defendant Blakeman said, "I can do whatever I want ... because I feel like it."  
4 Defendant Johnston told her he's "big enough to get the job done" while grunting  
5 and moaning. (Motion, p. 5.) When he changed into his wetsuit, he intentionally  
6 permitted the towel wrapped around him to open such that he exposed his penis to  
7 Reed. (*Id.*)

8 Reed's complaint and plea to the City for help on both days were disregarded.  
9 (PAMF 121-124.) The City made it hard for her to lodge complaints in the first  
10 place, asking her: "Why would a woman want to go to that beach and the Rock Fort  
11 anyways? There are rocks down there." (PAMF 120.) Specifically, before being  
12 harassed on February 13, 2016, she asked the police for an escort from the bluffs to  
13 the beach but was told no officers were available. (PAMF 121.) When she finally  
14 had the attention of Defendant Chief Kepley and Captain Tony Best, they said that  
15 they had photographs of the Lunada Bay Boys members. (PAMF 123.) However,  
16 they would not allow her to view the photos because it would impede the  
17 investigation. (*Id.*) In response to her desire to return, the City told her to carry a  
18 cell phone and travel in a large group. (PAMF 124.) Defendant Chief Kepley told  
19 her it was not safe to go to Lunada Bay, that he wouldn't even tell a man to go down  
20 there, and that he viewed it as a long-term problem. (*Id.*) As an outsider, Reed is  
21 denied access to a public area granted to the City from the State, and forced to  
22 announce her coming in advance only to be harassed. (PAMF 125.) Rather than to  
23 promote public access with simple things like a Coastal Commission recommended  
24 park bench, seating, trail markers and maps, trail improvements, and signs, the  
25 City's failed response was to make it hard to file a complaint, and tell her it is not  
26 safe. (*Id.*)

27       ///  
28       ///

1           **3. City Police Failed To Investigate A Bay Boy's Harassment And**  
2           **Battery Of Plaintiff Spencer.**

3           Plaintiff Spencer grew up in La Mirada, more than 30 miles from Palos  
4 Verdes Estates, and now lives in Norco. (PAMF 126.) Supported by other  
5 outsiders, Spencer decided to address his fear and attempt to surf Lunada Bay in  
6 2016. Upon Spencer's arrival at Lunada Bay on January 29, 2016, a Bay Boy told  
7 him, "You can't surf here kook." (Motion, p. 2.) Spencer also recalled statements  
8 like "How many other places did you pass to get here to surf?" and "Why don't you  
9 fucking go home, you fucking kook." (*Id.*) When Spencer went in the water, a  
10 Lunada Bay Boy ran over him on purpose with his surfboard and left a half-inch cut  
11 on Spencer's wrist. Even though Spencer had given the City advance notice that he  
12 and other outsiders would be coming to Lunada Bay, the City failed to arrive as  
13 requested and failed to patrol the shoreline near the water. (*Id.*) Moreover, even  
14 though he had been purposefully run over by a Bay Boy and attempted to tell a City  
15 policeman, the City showed no interest in investigating a crime against an outsider,  
16 even though the victim was a fellow police officer. (*Id.*) Given the custom and  
17 practice of discrimination by the City against outsiders, Spencer is afraid to return to  
18 Lunada Bay to use this public area. (*Id.*)

19           **IV. ARGUMENT**

20           Plaintiffs sue the City under Section 1983 because the City has a custom and  
21 practice of excluding outsiders and other so-called undesirables which violates their  
22 right to equal protection laws. The level of review the Court applies to determine  
23 whether the City's actions are constitutional depends on the class of people being  
24 denied equal protection. First, where strict scrutiny is applied in a 1983 claim, the  
25 court finds a state action constitutional only where the action is justified by a  
26 compelling government interest that is narrowly tailored. *W. States Paving Co. v.*  
27 *Washington State Dep't of Transp.*, 407 F.3d 983, 990 (9th Cir. 2005); *Harrington v.*  
28 *Scribner*, 785 F.3d 1299, 1307 (9th Cir. 2015). Second, under intermediate scrutiny,

1 a state action is constitutional only if it serves an important government interest that  
2 is substantially related to that action. *Norsworthy v. Beard*, 87 F. Supp. 3d 1104,  
3 1120 (N.D. Cal. 2015); *Jeldness v. Pearce*, 30 F.3d 1220, 1227 n.4 (9th Cir. 1994).  
4 Finally, under rational basis review, a court will uphold a state action if it is  
5 rationally related to a legitimate government interest. *Sanchez*, 914 F. Supp. 2d at  
6 1112. Here, under all applicable levels, the City's actions are not constitutional.

7       Although Plaintiffs told the City of the framework for this lawsuit at the  
8 required meet-and-confer prior to the City filing its motion (and during the  
9 depositions of City employees), the City nevertheless attacks a straw man in its  
10 Motion. The City argues that it is not liable because it has no duty to protect  
11 Plaintiffs from the acts of third parties, citing *De Shaney v. Winnebago County*  
12 *Department of Social Services*, 489 U.S. 189 (1988). The City's argument and *De*  
13 *Shaney* miss the mark of Plaintiffs' claims. Here, Plaintiffs are alleging the City  
14 affirmatively took actions that violated Plaintiffs' equal protection rights, not that the  
15 City failed to meet a duty. Because the City affirmatively took such steps, and  
16 because of the established relationship between the Bay Boys and the police, the  
17 Court must evaluate their constitutionality under the appropriate test as described  
18 above, and not under cases discussing the City's duties or lack thereof.

19       Here, Plaintiffs have more than met their burden for opposing summary  
20 judgment in that they can establish, by direct evidence and by inference, that the  
21 City has engaged in and condoned a pattern and practice over at least a 50-year  
22 period of overt discrimination.

23 **A. Plaintiff Coastal Protection Rangers Represents Individuals Whose  
24 Equal Protection Rights Have Been Violated By The City.**

25       While the City argues that CPR cannot bring this action without citing a  
26 single authority and without having deposed CPR, it in fact has both associational  
27 and organization standing. First, an entity has associational standing, also known as  
28 representational standing, if "(a) its members would otherwise have standing to sue

1 in their own right; (b) the interests it seeks to protect are germane to the  
2 organization's purpose; and (c) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested  
3 requires the participation of individual members in the lawsuit." *Associated Gen.*  
4 *Contractors of Am. v. Metro. Water Dist. of S. California*, 159 F.3d 1178, 1181 (9th  
5 Cir. 1998). "Individualized proof from the members is not needed where, as here,  
6 declaratory and injunctive relief is sought rather than monetary damages." *Id.*;  
7 *Retiree Support Grp. of Contra Costa Cty. v. Contra Costa Cty.*, 944 F. Supp. 2d  
8 799, 806 (N.D. Cal. 2013). Second, an entity has organizational standing if it  
9 alleges "(1) frustration of its organizational mission and (2) diversion of its  
10 resources to combat the particular [problem] in question." *Smith v. Pac. Props. &*  
11 *Dev. Corp.*, 358 F.3d 1097, 1105 (9th Cir. 2004).

12 Multiple courts have determined that an organization representing the rights  
13 of individuals has both associational and organizational standing. In *Arc of*  
14 *Washington State Inc. v. Braddock*, 129 F. App'x 348 (9th Cir. 2005), a social  
15 services organization helping people with intellectual and developmental  
16 disabilities, and three developmentally disabled people, brought suit against the  
17 Washington State Department of Social and Health Services for violation of Section  
18 1983 when the state placed restrictions on the number of individuals that could  
19 participate in a special Medicaid program. The Ninth Circuit found that the  
20 organization's request for declaratory and injunctive relief did not require individual  
21 participation by its members, that the interests it sought to protect were germane to  
22 its purposes, that its members have standing to sue in their own right, and that the  
23 state's action tends to frustrate its mission and divert its resources. *Id.* at 350-51  
24 (internal citations omitted). The Court came to the same conclusion in a case  
25 brought by an organization serving immigrants and three individuals who brought  
26 Section 1983 claims in *Comm. for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma Cty. v. Cty. of*  
27 *Sonoma*, 644 F. Supp. 2d 1177, 1193-94 (N.D. Cal. 2009), finding that the plaintiff  
28 organization had both associational and organizational standing.

1        Likewise, CPR has both associational and organizational standing. With  
2 regard to associational standing, (a) its members, individuals who want to visit  
3 coastal cities, have standing to sue in their own right although CPR does not have to  
4 show such proof because it seeks only declaratory relief, (b) the interests CPR seeks  
5 to protect here, access to Palos Verdes Estates and its beaches, are germane to its  
6 purpose of providing public access to coastal areas, and (c) CPR's individual  
7 members are not required to participate in this lawsuit. (PAMF 109-118.) With  
8 regards to organizational standing, (1) the City's actions have frustrated CPR's  
9 mission to protect public access to coastal areas; and (2) CPR's resources are being  
10 diverted as a result of its efforts to gain this access at Palos Verdes Estates. (*Id.*)  
11 Therefore, CPR properly brings this action on behalf of itself and its members.

**12 B. The City's Discriminatory Actions Against Racial Minorities Are A Violation Of Section 1983.**

14 Where a state action is alleged to be racially discriminatory, the courts apply  
15 strict scrutiny to determine if the action is constitutional. *Associated Gen.*  
16 *Contractors of Am., San Diego Chapter, Inc. v. California Dep't of Transp.*, 713  
17 F.3d 1187 (9th Cir. 2013); *W. States Paving Co*, 407 F.3d at 990 ; *Harrington* 785  
18 F.3d at1307. The court must find the state action to be unconstitutional unless the  
19 action is justified by a compelling government interest that is narrowly tailored. *Id.*

20 CPR represents all potential visitors to coastal areas, including members of  
21 racial minorities who have been discriminated by police at, or have been dissuaded  
22 from, visiting Palos Verdes Estates, including Lunada Bay. The City admits that  
23 minorities, particularly African Americans and Latinos, are discouraged from  
24 visiting the City and Lunada Bay because of its exclusionary police activities.  
25 (PAMF 131-136, 138-145, 147-162.) The police pull over and jail minorities at a  
26 disproportionate rate, and refuse to meaningfully diversify its police force. (PAMF  
27 136, 138, 147, 150.) Further, the police are aware of and condone the activities of  
28 the Bay Boys, who use racial profanities against minorities and engage in activities

1 such as wearing blackface during a Martin Luther King Day event. (PAMF 152,  
2 155, 156, 158, 185, 188-197.) In short, minorities never make it to the beach.  
3 (PAMF 158.)

4 Here, this evidence shows that the City has developed a practice and custom  
5 of excluding individuals who are members of racial minorities. Under strict  
6 scrutiny, the City must first identify a compelling government interest that this act of  
7 exclusion serves. Not only has the City failed to state any such government interest  
8 but it will not be able to credibly do so. There is no interest that excluding  
9 minorities serves except racism – like the old restrictive covenants of the Palos  
10 Verdes Homes Association. The City's actions with regards to racial minorities are  
11 not constitutional under strict scrutiny.

12 **C. The City's Gender Discrimination Violates Section 1983.**

13 Where a state action is alleged to discriminate on the basis of gender, the  
14 courts apply intermediate scrutiny to determine if the action is constitutional.  
15 *Norsworthy*, 87 F. Supp. 3d at 1120. Under intermediate scrutiny, a state action is  
16 unconstitutional unless it serves an important government interest that is  
17 substantially related to that action. *Id.*

18 Plaintiff Reed personally experienced the City's discriminatory practices.  
19 (PAMF 119-125, 185.) When she was sexually harassed at Lunada Bay (PAMF  
20 121, 122), City police discouraged her from making a complaint (PAMF 120), said  
21 that it was unsafe for her at Lunada Bay (PAMF 124), and that she shouldn't return  
22 unless she brought a cell phone and traveled in a group (*Id.*). Further, Plaintiff CPR  
23 represents all potential visitors to coastal areas, including women who have been  
24 discriminated by City police or have been dissuaded from visiting Palos Verdes  
25 Estates, including Lunada Bay. (PAMF 115, 116.) As the City admits, far fewer  
26 women visit Lunada Bay than men. (PAMF 159.)

27 It is evident from the undisputed facts that the City has engaged in a practice  
28 and custom of gender discrimination. Under intermediate scrutiny, the City will be

1 unable to articulate an important government interest that is to be served by  
2 discriminating against women. Therefore, the City's practice and custom of  
3 ignoring the complaints of women who want to visit Palos Verdes Estates, including  
4 Lunada Bay, should be found unconstitutional.

5 **D. Even If The Exclusion Of Outsiders Is Analyzed Under Rational Basis  
6 Review, The City Has Admitted It Has No Rational Basis For This  
Action.**

7 Where discrimination is alleged against a group that is not a protected class,  
8 such as racial minorities or women, courts apply rational basis review to determine  
9 if an action against the group is constitutional. *Sanchez*, 914 F. Supp. 2d at 1112.  
10 Courts will uphold a state action if it is rationally related to a legitimate government  
11 interest. *Id.*

12 Individuals who are not residents of Palos Verdes Estates, including  
13 inlanders, the working class, and the poor, have experienced consistent  
14 discrimination by the City over decades. (PAMF 136, 137, 139-147, 163-172, 174-  
15 198.) For example, City police failed to pursue an investigation after Plaintiff Cory  
16 Spencer informed them he was harassed by the Bay Boys and one cut him off in the  
17 water, causing injuries. (PAMF 129.) Further, CPR represents non-residents who  
18 want to visit Palos Verdes Estates but have been discriminated against by City  
19 police or have been dissuaded from visiting the City, including Lunada Bay. For  
20 decades, the City has made a practice of pulling over outsiders, towing their cars to  
21 a location owned by a City police officer, and jailing them at a disproportional rate,  
22 all the while failing to take any measures to enforce its own ordinances regarding  
23 localism. An untold number of outsiders are turned away by the City before they  
24 make it to the beach – as evidenced by the disproportionately low numbers of people  
25 that visit Lunada Bay. (PAMF 167-170.)

26 Rational basis review applies to the outsiders. While rational basis review is  
27 the lowest level of review the Court may undertake, it is not a rubber stamp. Here,  
28 the City's actions against outsiders should not be found to be constitutional under

1 rational basis review for the plain reason that the City has admitted it has no rational  
2 basis for these actions. (PAMF 198.) In response to Plaintiff Spencer's  
3 Interrogatory No. 1 asking, "Do YOU contend that a RATIONAL BASIS exists for  
4 YOU to treat RESIDENTS of the CITY differently from NON-RESIDENTS of the  
5 CITY with regard to facilitating lawful, safe, and secure access to LUNADA  
6 BAY?," the City responded, "No" and denied that it treated residents differently  
7 from non-residents. (*Id.*) Then, in response to a Plaintiff Spencer's Interrogatory  
8 No. 2, asking the City to explain the nature of the rational basis for this disparate  
9 treatment, the City responded, "Not applicable." (*Id.*) In any case, the City would  
10 be hard-pressed to identify a legitimate government interest that is rationally related  
11 to its practice and custom of stopping non-resident motorists, treating outsiders  
12 differently with respect to enforcement of city ordinances, and refusing to take  
13 outsiders' complaints to the police seriously. Thus, even under the lowest standard  
14 of equal protection review, the City's actions cannot be found to be constitutional.

## 15                   V. CONCLUSION

16                   In sum, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. And whatever  
17 affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Much more than any reference to a beach  
18 movie remake or other trifle, this lawsuit is about addressing present-day illegal  
19 exclusivity imposed and condoned by the City against the Plaintiffs and all  
20 beachgoers (would-be and otherwise) who are deterred by the City. Summary  
21 judgment or adjudication is not warranted for Defendants City and Chief Kepley in  
22 this case. Plaintiffs have raised sufficient material facts that must be heard at trial.  
23 For these reasons, Plaintiffs ask the Court to deny the City's and Chief Kepley's  
24 Motion in its entirety.

25 DATED: July 31, 2017

HANSON BRIDGETT LLP

26 By: /s/ Kurt A. Franklin  
27                   KURT A. FRANKLIN  
28                   Attorneys for Plaintiffs